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## Missouri libraries receive LSTA grants

Secretary of State Matt Blunt has awarded a variety of new grants to Missouri libraries over the past few months, totaling \$331,209. The grants are funded through the federal Library Services and Technology Act.

### BRING IN AN EXPERT

#### Independence School District

**\$4,447**

The libraries in the school district will seek the services of a consultant to help them select an automation system.

#### Missouri Southern State University – George A. Spiva Library

**\$850**

Spiva Library will hire an expert on government documents to make sure its collection addresses the current needs of the University, as well as to prepare for the anticipated content and format changes expected within the federal depository library system.

#### Kansas City Art Institute – Jannes Library and Learning Center

**\$5,000**

The art institute will hire a database designer to maximize the use of the current database for the library's extensive slide collection. The designer's expertise will help to address problems with the current system, add a layer of security to protect the database, and improve methods of browsing or searching the collection.

### COMPUTER TRAINING LABORATORIES

#### Doniphan-Ripley County Library

**\$42,984**

The library system received funding for two training lab sites, in Doniphan and Naylor, for a total of 20 wireless laptop computers to train staff and community members.

#### Stone County Library

**\$18,715**

Grant funds will provide a small training lab of eight laptop computers, suitable for computer education classes for patrons and staff training.

#### Richmond Heights Library

**\$38,444**

A portable wireless computer lab will provide the library with the capabilities to offer extensive training to library users and staff.

#### Oregon County/Thayer Public Library

**\$18,377**

The library will use funds to purchase six desktop and five laptop units, with the desktop computers housed at Thayer and the laptops routed to the other branches of the library.

### SPOTLIGHT ON LIBRARY PROGRAMS

#### Salem Public Library

**\$417**

Grant funding will support a one day information fair for senior citizens in the library, where businesses and organizations serving seniors will promote their services. Library staff will also showcase library services and programming available to senior citizens.

#### Jessie E. McCully Memorial Library (Dixon)

**\$580**

The library will use funds to bring in the author of *Missouri Horses: Gift to a Nation*, a former resident of Dixon, who will demonstrate horsemanship techniques with a Missouri fox trotter.

### PLANNING AND STANDARDS

#### Christian County Library

**\$15,000**

The library will use these planning funds to do a countywide community needs assessment.

## newsline

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## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**St. Louis Public Library** **\$1,850**  
Grant funds will support a half-day workshop on Bosnian, Vietnamese, and Muslim cultures, for approximately 50 library staff from all branches and locations.

**St. Louis Public Library** **\$3,600**  
The library will use the grant to offer two workshops on dealing with difficult people, with over 500 staff members attending.

**St. Louis Public Library** **\$1,858**  
This grant provides funding for two separate workshops on youth services. One session will target general library service staff, and the other will target youth services staff only.

**Springfield-Greene County Library District** **\$1,140**  
The library district will offer two workshops on children's services, and attendance will be open to 20 libraries in the region.

**Springfield-Greene County Library District** **\$21,362**  
Grant funding will provide a two day workshop for librarians and architects, to learn Libris DESIGN, a library planning information system and downloadable database. Up to 30 area libraries will be invited to attend.

## DIGITAL IMAGING

**University of Missouri-Rolla** **\$10,118**  
"Rare 19th Century Phelps County Newspapers" chronicles the daily history of south central Missouri, and are a fascinating and educational glimpse into the historical events and attitudes of previous generations.

**St. Louis Art Museum** **\$15,000**  
"Cass Gilbert's Palace of Fine Arts" includes photos and glass lantern slides of a historic building from the 1904 World's Fair exposition, the only building designed to be a permanent structure.

**University of Missouri-Columbia (Space Planning)** **\$27,253**  
"MU in Brick and Mortar: Part II" includes architectural drawings, plans, and photos of MU campus buildings, including a section on historical landmarks and monuments that no longer exist but are significant to the university's past.

**University of Missouri-Columbia (Library Systems Office)** **\$4,330**  
"Retrospective Metadata for Eleven Collections" will create metadata for existing digital collections at Adair County Public Library, Kansas City Public Library, the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the University of Missouri-Columbia Archives.

## RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION

**Canton Public Library** **\$42,091**  
This grant will incorporate the library's collection as part of Show-Me the World.

**Washington University Libraries** **\$1,000**  
The grant will provide a retrospective conversion of an existing database of records for audio recordings, including cassette and open-reel recordings of readings by prominent national and local poets at the university.

**Central Methodist College** **\$1,093**  
The college will use grant funds for the retrospective conversion of a rare book collection, including rare 18th century literature, pre-Civil War books written in defense of slavery and southern rights, and 19th century works on history.

**Missouri Western State College-National Military History Museum** **\$55,700**  
This grant provides for MARC cataloging of a military history reference collection, including books, serials, CD-ROMs, maps, magazines, papers, and audio-visual materials.

## Conference participants hear the latest census updates

Representatives from public libraries, local government, higher education, and state government gathered in Jefferson City on July 20 for the Missouri Census Data Center (MCDC) Annual Conference. Information on new census products, Web tools, and new data was shared with the participants.

MCDC staff presented information on the American Community Survey (ACS), which is the Census Bureau's new method for gathering detailed demographic information. The ACS replaces the long form many people received in the 2000 Census. The ACS will provide the kinds of information on housing, income, poverty, and population many people research at libraries and use in planning. Therefore, the switch from the long form sample data collection to the ACS is important to understand so the new data is used appropriately.

Staff also shared with participants how the MCDC Web site would be updated over the coming year. In an effort to make the Web site as intuitive as possible, the format will change and include a "quick links" section, an improved directory, and removal of obsolete files. New tools will be added to the Web site making available more mapping functions and improved historical data collections.

Bill Elder, from the University of Missouri's Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED), presented examples of using MCDC data to create tools for school, planning, and transportation officials across the state. OSED has many custom tables, maps, and diagrams on their Web site (<http://oseda.missouri.edu>) depicting census information that provides a deep understanding of the demographic dynamics of Missouri. This understanding allows people to make more informed decisions on the needs of our roads, schools, and cities across the state.

Perhaps the most important presenters during the conference were the conference attendees. MCDC staff designed the last

session of the conference to gather input from census data users and determine if new data is needed, new tools required, or a shift in priorities desired. After all, gauging the success of the MCDC requires the information be useful and accessible to as many people as possible.

For more information of the Missouri Census Data Center, contact Nathaniel Albers at 800-325-0131, ext. 14, [nathaniel.albers@sos.mo.gov](mailto:nathaniel.albers@sos.mo.gov), or <http://mcdc.missouri.edu>.

## New repository program captures electronic publications

To meet the demands of the digital age, the State Library will implement a new electronic repository program for publications produced by state agencies. Instead of the standard collection of paper versions of government documents, the State Library will collect electronic versions of publications to create a digital repository.

Introduced during this year's legislative session as House Bill 1347, the State Publications Access Program was signed into law by Governor Bob Holden on June 25. The original depository program required state agencies to supply 45 paper copies of any report to the library, which would then be distributed to designated depository libraries around the state.

Determining how to identify, capture, digitally archive, and create descriptive and preservation metadata for the state documents will be the task of the reference services division of the State Library, who are currently developing a plan. All departmental annual reports, policy papers, statistical reports, elected officials' reports, and all legislative committee reports and judicial reports will be collected for the depository, as well as official Missouri state manuals, the Code of State Regulations, revised statutes, and the house and senate journals. Ephemeral matter, such as newsletters and fact sheets, may also become part of the repository as staff work through definitions in the new statute. HB 1347 is effective as of August 28, 2004.



## EDSITEment

<http://edsitement.neh.gov>

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), EDSITEment is a gateway of humanities-related resources on the Internet for students, parents, and teachers. Links to online humanities resources from museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions are available, as well as lesson plans and activities in art, history, literature, and social studies.

## First Find

[www.firstfind.info/](http://www.firstfind.info/)

First Find is a portal for easy to find, easy to use Web sites in plain and simple English. The portal is a project of the Westchester Library System in Ardsley, New York.

## American Rhetoric: The Power of Oratory in the United States

[www.americanrhetoric.com](http://www.americanrhetoric.com)

American Rhetoric provides online access to speeches. The site contains an index to more than 5,000 full-text audio and video versions of public speeches, the 100 most significant American political speeches, and memorable speeches in Hollywood movies.



## Missouri Library News

### Kirkwood and Albany tax levies unsuccessful

Voters turned down two libraries' attempts to increase revenue and maintain services during the primary election on August 3. Albany Carnegie Public Library and Kirkwood Public Library both proposed tax levies to assist with the operation and maintenance of their facilities.

This is the second year in a row Albany has tried to pass a levy, and only 10 votes kept this year's 15-cent increase from passing. Cheryl Noble, library director, told the *St. Joseph News-Press* that budget cuts may be in the future, and the board will have to examine the budget to see if current services can be maintained.

Kirkwood had two propositions on the ballot: a nine-cent property tax rate increase and a \$16 million bond issue to build a new library. The nine-cent increase, known as Proposition K, was intended to boost revenue and sustain the day-to-day operations of the library. It failed, 4,917 to 5,082 votes. Proposition L, the bond issue, would have funded the construction of a new facility with an expanded collection and up to date technology. The bond proposal needed a four-sevenths favorable majority to pass, and failed 4,183 to 5,742.

### D-Day invasion exhibit honors veterans

In honor of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, the Stars and Stripes Museum and Library in Bloomfield recently dedicated a new exhibit to the soldiers who invaded occupied France in 1944.

Bloomfield is the birthplace of *Stars and Stripes*, a newspaper published by soldiers for soldiers since the Civil War. The muse-

um and library opened in 1998, and has become a major attraction in the area.

The new exhibit, the largest currently in the museum, takes up an entire wing. Photos, replicas of instruments and weapons, life-sized mannequins in period uniforms, and correspondence make up the exhibit. Curator Paul Arnold spent hours designing the exhibit and making sure everything was historically accurate, including a replica of a German hedgehog, a spiked obstacle used to stop boats and landing craft from coming ashore.

The library also recently received funding to expand their archiving abilities and equipment, including obtaining all available copies of the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper on microfilm and purchasing a new microfilm reader.

### Advance Community Library holds grand opening

With the support from the community and strong leadership from library board members, Advance Community Library opened its doors on June 26. The town started work to establish a library in March 2003, when the local community development group, the Advance Community Team, decided that opening a library should be a high priority for the town.

Book donations number in the thousands, and the library will need to weed out unneeded copies currently in storage and decide what subject areas need additional volumes. More children's books, genealogy resources, and videos are on their wish list.

The dedication ceremony took place at the Advance school district administrative offices, where the library is housed in the former junior high science classroom. The ceremony was held in conjunction with a barbeque fundraiser that brought in over \$1,000 for the library fund.

### Adair County Library seniors program participation exceeds expectations

Older adults began lining up outside the doors of the Adair County Library early one Saturday morning, hoping to be the first in-





**Participants gather brochures and other items at one of the information booths at Adair County Library's Body, Mind, and Soul for Seniors.**

side for the "Body, Mind, and Soul for Seniors" fair held this spring. The library scheduled the event two hours before the building is usually open, to allow seniors to browse the many booths and attend workshops in a comfortable, non-intimidating setting. The first 100 people through the door received gift bags containing coupons for health related businesses, flower seeds, granola bars, and more.

Participants at "Body, Mind, and Soul for Seniors" had the opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of topics, including cooking, massage therapy, avoiding fraud and scams, exercise for arthritis sufferers, and yoga for seniors. Volunteers assisted seniors who were unfamiliar with computers, teaching them basic skills. While staff assumed that seniors would come and go all morning, they were surprised to find most seniors showed up early and stayed for the entire event. Glenda Davis, library director, was pleased with the participant turnout (approximately 150 people attended), and with

the many positive comments she and her staff received from the seniors who attended the program.

"Body, Mind, and Soul for Seniors" is one in a series of programs the library has provided for seniors with funding from the State Library's Discoveries grant program. The Institute of Museum and Library Services supports the grant program under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), as administered by the State Library. The Discoveries grant guidelines require libraries to conduct a minimum of four programs appealing to mature audiences. The grant program funds three of the events, with local funding paying for the fourth.

In addition to the senior fair, the library hosted a presentation by Dianne Moran as Sacagawea, an informational lecture by a park naturalist about Missouri birds, and sensitivity training for staff, conducted by Jone Perry and Jan Johnson of the Daviess County Library.

## Upcoming Events



**September 2004**  
International Literacy Day,  
September 8

Secretary's Council on  
Library Development,  
September 10

MOBIUS Council Meeting,  
September 17

MOSL Trustee Workshop,  
September 25

Missouri Center for the Book  
Celebration, Kansas City,  
September 25

Banned Books Week,  
September 25–October 2

**October 2004**  
LITA National Forum,  
October 7–10

National Book Festival,  
October 9

Teen Read Week, Oct 17–23

MLA Annual Conference,  
October 27–29

## Summer and fall grant rounds now open

LSTA grant opportunities for summer and fall 2004 are now available on the State Library Web site. Financial assistance for training, programming, digital imaging project, and more is available to all types of libraries in the state.

Most grant applications have deadline dates in October or November, but make careful note of the different deadlines, grant periods, and eligibility requirements for each application. Applications can be downloaded from the State Library Web site, [www.sos.mo.gov/library](http://www.sos.mo.gov/library).

## Moberly celebrates 100 years of service

The Moberly branch of the Little Dixie Regional Library celebrated its 100th birthday on July 29 with a grand re-opening of the Carnegie Library. State and local officials were on hand to re-enter the library as people had in 1904, and attendees of all ages were invited to join in a day filled with many fun activities.

Originally established as a Carnegie library, the Moberly branch has evolved over the years into a critical service for the community. The mid-60s marked Moberly Free Public Library's merger with the Little Dixie Regional Library system.

In 1995, an addition to the original Carnegie building doubled its size for materials and other services. The addition allowed all area citizens access to the library regardless of physical disabilities.

The Moberly Library now has a computer lab, increased office space, videoconferencing facility, meeting area for the library and local organizations' programming, and a genealogy center.

Main Street Moberly recognized Little Dixie as the August business of the month, saluting the library for the ways it meets the needs of its users.

## Poplar Bluff opens sensory garden

The Poplar Bluff Public Library recently opened a sensory garden, allowing those who visit to experience nature with all five senses.

Funded by the Rotary Club of Poplar Bluff and the library's Friends group, and maintained by the city parks and recreation department, the garden contains over 50 varieties of plants to see, touch, smell, and taste. It also appeals to the ear, with a three-tiered fountain donated by a member of the Friends Group in honor of her father. The garden is completely handicapped accessible, including plant identifier tags in Braille and waist-high planters for those who have trouble reaching the ground.

Situated near the entrance of the library's



**Fountain at the Poplar Bluff Public Library**  
(Shannon Lane Photo)

community room, the sensory garden was designed by Angela Cochran, horticulturist for the Poplar Bluff parks and recreation department. Cochran filled the garden with chocolate peppermint-scented geraniums, lemon basil, tomatoes, and other plants and flowers that encourage interaction from visitors. Library staff members have given tours to story time and day care groups and say patrons are very pleased with the garden. A dedication ceremony took place in late June.

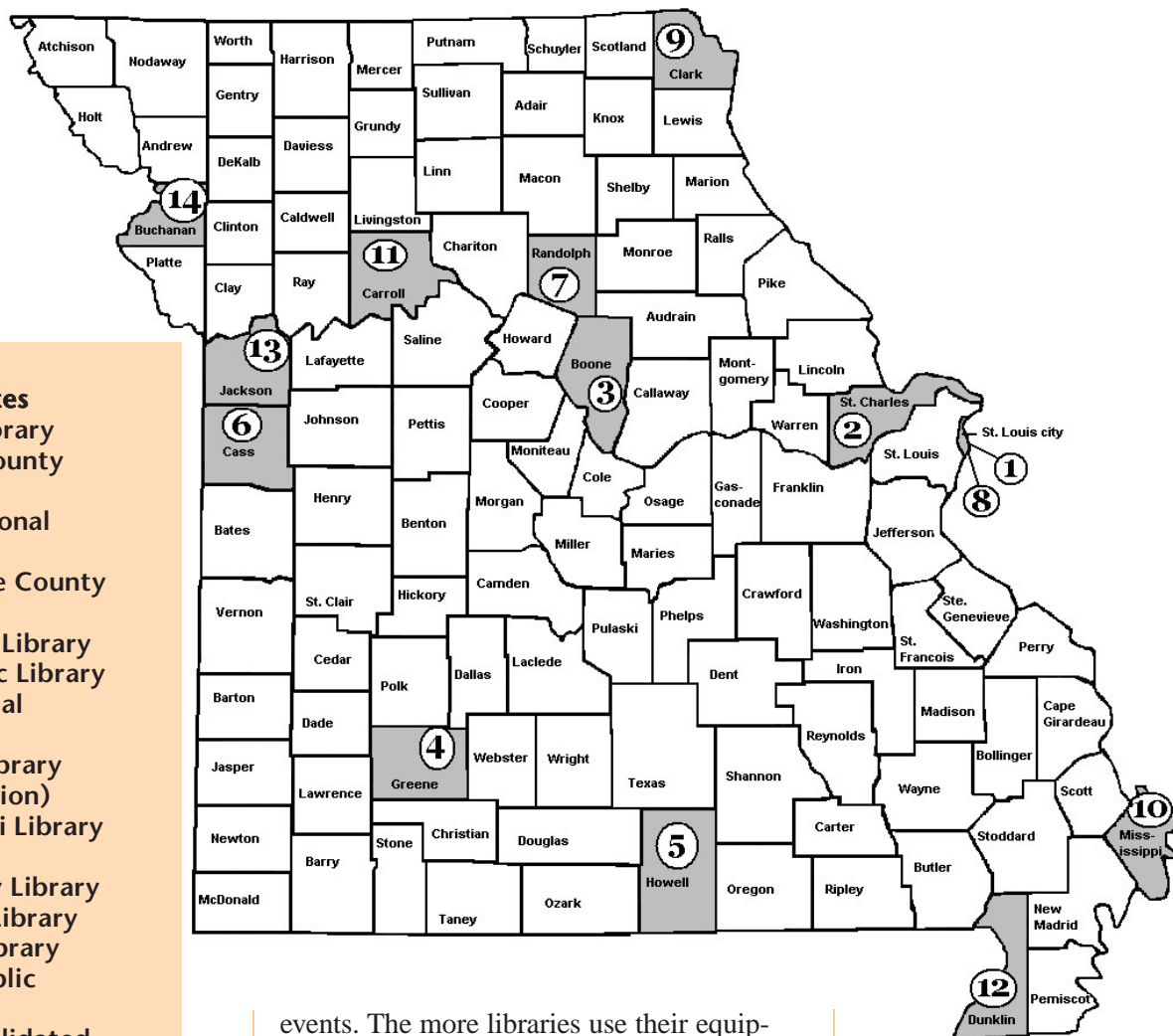
## St. Joseph Public reopens downtown library

Restored terrazzo floors, a bug-themed mural in the children's section, and a remodeled circulation desk with two types of marble are just a few of the renovations completed during the \$1.9 million restoration effort at the St. Joseph Public Library's downtown location. Built in 1902, the library needed significant updating to provide proper services to patrons. The library reopened in April, delighting patrons not only with aesthetic improvements but with modern heating and cooling systems and better lighting.

St. Joseph will open the \$3.2 million East Hills Library in September.

### Missouri Library Videoconferencing Sites

1. St. Louis Public Library
2. St. Charles City-County Library
3. Daniel Boone Regional Library
4. Springfield-Greene County Public Library
5. West Plains Public Library
6. Cass County Public Library
7. Little Dixie Regional Libraries
8. MLNC (Missouri Library Network Corporation)
9. Northeast Missouri Library Service
10. Mississippi County Library
11. Carrollton Public Library
12. Dunklin County Library
13. Mid-Continent Public Library
14. Rolling Hills Consolidated Library



## Videoconferencing offers contact across the state

Videoconferencing capabilities now stretch across the state, after the State Library's efforts to initiate a program to expand communication capabilities between Missouri libraries. Fourteen libraries now have videoconferencing capabilities, courtesy of State Library videoconferencing grants and sustained through MOREnet. The network is used for workshops, training, and a variety of community events.

As the first years with the videoconferencing equipment pass, libraries learn the best ways to ensure successful videoconference

events. The more libraries use their equipment, the more experience they gain and the more successful their events will become. With the possible addition of more State Library-sponsored sites in the future, Missouri libraries will continue to build their value and capacity by offering high quality programming not just for their staff and patrons, but to everyone across the state.

The most recent recipients of videoconferencing equipment grants are Carrollton Public Library, Dunklin County Library, Mid-Continent Public Library, and Rolling Hills Consolidated Library.

**Correction:** Mary Alice Tourtillott was listed in the May-June 2004 issue as a librarian for the Seneca Public Library. Tourtillott actually retired as a library clerk from the Neosho-Newton County Library, Seneca Branch.





## Personal Notes

**newsline** welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)



### Appointments

**Michaela Hansen** joined the State Library as library administration consultant on July 16. She provides assistance to public libraries regarding planning, organization, management, and trustee development conferences. Hansen administers the state aid certification program and monitors the collection of annual statistical data. Previously, Hansen worked in public reference and technical services at the Columbia Public Library and was a library intern for the Gates Foundation. Hansen holds a master's degree in library science from the University of Missouri, School of Information Science and Learning Technologies, and a Ph.D. in German literature from the University of Kansas.

**Joe Dark**, Mississippi County Library District director, retired in August. Dark served as director of the library system since 1980. He will continue to work part time at the library, assisting with the videoconferencing center and training the new director.

**Stephanie Bledsoe**, the new director, started work on August 2. She is a 1997 graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, with a degree in communications. Bledsoe has a background in marketing and human resources. She most recently worked for Ferguson Medical Group in Sikeston, and is pleased to be in Charleston and excited about working with the community.

### Awards and Honors

**Edward Proctor**, electronic resources librarian at Southwest Missouri State University, has received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant in Library Science at Annamalai University, India. The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program offers grants to

leading U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at academic institutions in 140 countries around the world. The Senior Specialists Program aims at increasing the number of faculty and professionals who have the opportunity to go abroad on a Fulbright.

While at Annamalai University, Proctor will offer a variety of lectures and workshops on Internet-related topics to both students and faculty, as well as assisting in the development of future courses, the production of texts for training, the evaluation of previous programs, and advice on the best methods for keeping current with this ever-changing field.

Proctor's library science publications have all dealt with the interface between IT and its end-users, and include a statistical study of faculty use of locally-loaded databases; the confusing effects of Boolean logic on Internet users; the impact of variant spellings on Internet searches; the differing outlooks of those who design Web site interfaces and those who must explain them to library patrons; and a forthcoming article on the need to simplify such interfaces to increase their usability.

As a result of the Fulbright award, Proctor was appointed to two ALA committees, the Near East and South Asia Subcommittee of ALA's International Relations Committee, and the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

### Retirements

**Paul Duckworth** retired August 1 from the Springfield-Greene County Library. Duckworth served as collection management coordinator for over 28 years, and will move to New York to serve as a library sales representative for a book vendor. According to the library's staff newsletter, over the years Paul embraced the newest reference technology and was "the library's first and only collection guru," heading the new department that managed and shaped the library's burgeoning materials budget.



**James W. Goodrich** retired this spring after serving as executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri since 1985. He also served as director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection and as an adjunct professor in the University of Missouri–Columbia Department of History. After a brief term as state archivist in 1966, Goodrich joined the State Historical Society staff as assistant to the director in 1967. He served as the Society’s assistant director and associate director, and was only the fifth director of the Society in its 106-year existence.

**Lee Ann Johnson-Dingman** has retired from the Neosho-Newton County Library, after 44 years of service. She worked in every area of the library, but is most remembered in the community for running the bookmobile for many years. After the bookmobile program was discontinued in 1987, Johnson-Dingman worked at the cir-

culation desk and then moved to cataloging. To celebrate her efforts, the library held a reception where city and county representatives, board trustees, and State Representative Kevin Wilson offered their thanks for her dedication.

**Dr. Ted Sheldon**, Dean and Director of Libraries, has retired from the University of Missouri-Kansas City after 21 years of service. Sheldon joined the UMKC University Libraries in 1983 and served as the Associate Director until 1985. He was appointed as Director of Libraries after a national search in 1985, and in 2001 his title was changed to Dean and Director of Libraries. During Sheldon’s tenure, notable accomplishments include projects related to technology, partnerships, service innovations, securing endowments and gifts, and building projects. Joan FitzPatrick Dean, a UMKC English Department professor since 1975, will serve as interim dean.

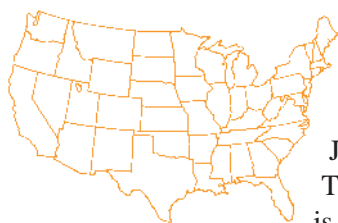
## Use of wireless connectivity growing

More than one quarter of all Americans use devices such as laptop computers with wireless modems or cell phones that enable them to surf the Web or check e-mail. According to a March 2004 survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 28% of Americans – and fully 41% of all Internet users – have within the past month used a laptop that can connect wirelessly to the Internet or a cell phone that lets them send and receive e-mail.

From Washington University’s Olin Library to the McDonald County Public Library, more libraries across Missouri are offering wireless service to users, and if the Pew report is any indication, the demand for such services will grow. To read more about the survey, visit [www.pewinternet.org](http://www.pewinternet.org).

## New population estimates released

On June 24, 2004, the U.S. Census Bureau released estimates on the population of incorporated places across the United States as of July 1, 2003.



This information is useful to li-

brary districts, local government agencies, regional planning commissions, and others requiring the most current population information available. You can access the information by visiting

<http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>. This data is a follow up to the county population estimates released in May by the Census Bureau.

For more information on census data in Missouri, please contact Nathaniel Albers at [nathaniel.albers@sos.mo.gov](mailto:nathaniel.albers@sos.mo.gov) or 800-325-0131, ext. 14.

## Missouri cities rank in ‘most literate’ study



Out of 79 U.S. cities with populations over 200,000, Kansas City and St. Louis rank number 12 and 13 in the *America’s Most Literate Cities* study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

To compile the rankings, cities were analyzed in five different categories of literate, “bookish” behavior. Newspaper circulation, bookstores, periodical publishers, and educational levels were evaluated based on three to six variables each. Library quality was the final category, using six variables to assess both school and public libraries. In this category, Kansas City ranked number two and St. Louis ranked number three of the 79 cities studied.

The entire report, with complete rankings and research methodology is available at [www.uww.edu/npa/cities/index.html](http://www.uww.edu/npa/cities/index.html).

### **New brochure available to introduce 'open access'**

A new "Open Access" brochure demonstrates how access to scholarly research can capitalize on Internet connectivity and increase a research article's use and impact. It also suggests steps authors of journal articles can take to provide open access to their work. Produced by SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), the Association of Research Libraries, and the Association of College and Research Libraries, the brochure can be purchased in bulk or downloaded free at [www.createchange.org/resources/brochure.html](http://www.createchange.org/resources/brochure.html).

## **Blunt teams up with St. Louis Rams for libraries**

Secretary of State Matt Blunt and the St. Louis Rams Community Outreach Team have partnered to provide children's books and funding for programming to public libraries across Missouri for a second year. The State Library and the Rams' Community Outreach Team have awarded \$400 grants for books from the Rams Library Collection list, which includes sports-themed books and books chosen by Rams players as childhood favorites, Rams bookplates, and \$100 for related programming.

Eighteen libraries received Rams grants. Recipients were chosen based on criteria that included promotion of literacy, community need, library need, promotion of community partnerships, and quality of programming. The primary aim of this grant program is to use the appeal of sports to promote literacy and reading among young Missourians.

Since moving to St. Louis in 1995, the Rams have contributed more than \$3 million in cash, grants, merchandise, and tickets to area charities.

The following libraries are recipients of the 2004 Rams Library Collection Grant:

Bernie Public Library  
Bethany Public Library  
Bloomfield Public Library  
Brentwood Public Library  
Butler Public Library  
Carter County Library  
Cass County Library, Cleveland Mini Branch  
Doniphan-Ripley County Library  
Doniphan-Ripley County Library, Naylor Branch  
Grundy County Jewett Norris Library  
Kirkwood Public Library  
Little Dixie Regional Library, Dulany Memorial Library  
Marshall Public Library  
Mexico Audrain County Library, Laddonia Branch  
Nevada Public Library  
Oregon County Library, Alton Branch  
Steele Public Library  
Winona Public Library



## **Missouri author celebration in Kansas City**

The Kansas City Central Library will host "Show Me Authors: A Celebration of Writers in Kansas City," on Saturday, September 25. A panel of authors from BkMK Press will open the celebration, running concurrently in the morning with a young adult/children's author session featuring Lisa Campbell Ernst, Laura Huliska-Beith, and Christine Taylor Butler.

Daniel Woodrell and Lisa Tucker will speak during the afternoon sessions, and a poetry slam and contest will take place in the library's café, featuring Stan Banks, Glenn North and Debra DiBlasi.

While the author appearances and poetry slam are free and open to the public, a special luncheon is scheduled in the Helzberg auditorium at noon, to present the 2004 Thorpe Menn Award. Tickets for the luncheon are \$25 and available by calling (913) 831-9763.

"Show Me Authors" is jointly sponsored

by Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Center for the Book, American Association of University Women, BkMk Press, and Maple Woods Community College. The event kicks off a week-long celebration, including Maple Woods Community College's 20th Annual Writers' and Readers' Conference on October 1 & 2.

## NEA study shows Americans are reading less

*Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, released in July from the



National Endowment for the Arts, shows a serious decline in literary reading, with fewer than half of American adults now reading liter-

ature. From 1982 to 2002, the study shows an overall decline of 10 percent of literary readers, with only 46% of adults reading literature (novels, short stories, plays, and poetry) on a regular basis.

While literary reading declined across all demographic groups, a more dramatic decline rate appears among readers from the youngest age groups. According to the report, young adults aged 18-24 showed a 55 percent greater rate of decline than that of the total adult population.

When analyzed by region, readers in the West are at a slightly higher average, at 51.2%, while the Midwest states, of which Missouri is included, came in at 46.7%. Readers in the Southern states rated the lowest reading activity levels, at 42.1%.

The report also compares participation in literary activities with cultural and civic activities. 43% of literary readers participate in charity or volunteer work, as opposed to only 17% of nonreaders. Results are similar for those who visit art museums (44% of readers, versus 12% nonreaders) or attend performing arts events (49% of readers, 17% nonreaders).

Dan Gioia, NEA chairman, views the results with caution, noting, "the concerned

citizen in search of good news about American literary culture will study the pages of this report in vain." Gioia offers no single solution, but says, "each concerned group—writers, teachers, publishers, journalists, librarians, and legislators – will legitimately view the situation from a different perspective, and will each offer its own recommendations."

The American Library Association released its own statement soon after the report was published, pointing out the report did not address library use by the respondents. ALA reports public library visits have more than doubled in the past decade, to nearly 1.2 billion, and circulation of books and other resources continue to grow. The popularity of "one book, one community" initiatives and book discussion groups also point to active, growing reading efforts.

The complete *Reading at Risk* report can be downloaded from the NEA Web site, [www.nea.gov](http://www.nea.gov).

## MLA sponsors legal research workshops

The Missouri Library Association has partnered with the Missouri Bar Association to offer free training for librarians to help patrons with legal questions. The training curriculum can be modified to meet the particular needs of librarians around the state, but core concepts focus on:

- ◆ Knowing the difference between legal advice and reference help
- ◆ Knowing how to say no to patrons who want legal advice
- ◆ Essential printed and Internet legal resources
- ◆ Basics of Missouri's legal system
- ◆ How to analyze patrons' legal questions to determine where the information can most likely be found
- ◆ Free printed resources on Missouri law

Group sessions are scheduled around the state, and will also be offered as a pre-conference session at the MLA Annual Conference in October. To schedule a training session contact Margaret Booker at (573) 449-4627.

## 2004 LITA National Forum to be held in St. Louis, October 7-10

"10 Years of Connectivity: Libraries, the World Wide Web and the Next Decade" is the theme for the seventh annual Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) National Forum, held on October 7 - 10, 2004, at the Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet in St. Louis.

A special session will focus on technological developments that debuted at the St. Louis 1904 World's Fair, and thirty concurrent sessions will cover everything from GIS systems to digital asset management.

The Forum will also offer a variety of workshops, receptions, and networking opportunities, as well as evening dinner groups organized by LITA leaders. Registration is limited to 500. For complete details, visit [www.lita.org/forum04](http://www.lita.org/forum04). LITA is a division of the American Library Association.



## Contest asks students to write to their favorite authors

Encourage young library users to participate in this year's Letters About Literature contest, sponsored by the Missouri Center for the Book, the Missouri State Library, the Library of Congress, and Target Stores. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic.

There are competition levels for children in grades 4 through 6, grades 7 and 8, and grades 9 through 12. Winners selected at the state level competition win cash prizes and advance to the national competition, where they could win an expenses paid trip to the National Book Festival in Washington D.C.

Last year over 1,200 Missouri students submitted entries in the contest, writing to

authors ranging from Dr. Seuss to Hermann Hesse. Over 10,000 Missouri readers have participated in the contest in the past ten years, and the entries are more than a standard book report. "The letters are personal and often poignant, sometimes humorous, sometimes painfully honest," said Catherine Gourley, Letters About Literature national coordinator. "They never fail to impress me and our more than 100 judges across the country who read and select the state and national winners."

Contest guidelines and a teaching supplement are available at the Center for the Book Web site at [www.loc.gov/letters](http://www.loc.gov/letters). Participation guidelines and entry coupons were mailed to all public libraries and schools in Missouri in early September, but can also be found on the Missouri Center for the Book Web site, <http://books.missouri.org>. Deadline for entries is December 4, 2004. Contact Holly Dentner, Coordinator, Missouri Center for the Book, at (573) 751-2680 or [holly.dentner@sos.mo.gov](mailto:holly.dentner@sos.mo.gov) for more information.

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